

# Snow clouds over Provo Canyon have a silver lining

**By Brooke Adams**  
Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — Prospectors in the early 1900s believed there was a fortune to be made mining silver in the North Fork of Provo Canyon.

They were partly right. There was a fortune to be made, but not in silver. The mother lode at the spot that would one day become Robert Redford's Sundance Resort was snow.

The first person to grasp the area's potential as a ski resort was Ray Stewart. The Stewart family had been spending summer months on the back slopes of Mt. Timpanogos (they called the area Timp Haven) since the early 1900s.

In 1930, Ray Stewart and his brother, Henry, spent the winter in the family cabin at Aspen Grove, skiing and enjoying the winter snow.

Shortly thereafter, at the urging of his skiing friends Earl Miller, Junior Bounous, Dick Hawkins and Dick Johnson, Stewart rigged a rope tow up the side of a hill in the area of the present road to the Sundance Summer Theatre and gave birth to Timp Haven Family Winter Funland.

Timp Haven's first ski run was something to behold. From the top, about two-thirds of the distance to the Summer Theatre, skiers swooshed back down the mountain-side and across North Fork Creek via a bridge of cut logs covered with straw and packed with snow.

The rope tow was eventually replaced by a T-bar lift that ascended "The Face." In 1951, Stewart's

brother, S. Paul Stewart, joined as a financial partner in the resort. The brothers installed a used chair lift they had purchased from Kimball Junction in Park City.

Ray Stewart managed and ran the lifts and headed the ski patrol, which consisted of anyone who happened to be skiing and knew first aid. Volunteers were given free lift passes in exchange for monitoring the slopes and assisting injured skiers.

Also in 1951, a city recreation program was initiated by Junior Bounous and the Brigham Young University physical education department.

In the summer months, when the resort was closed, Paul Stewart herded sheep on the mountain slopes.

The resort really leaped into the modern day in 1956. Paul Stewart bought an old building from Provo City and moved it to Timp Haven, where it was converted to a snack bar and lunch room, complete with running water, toilets and modern cooking equipment.

A year later, Paul Stewart bought out his brother and Bounous and assumed full ownership of the resort. He created a tubing hill (on the gentle bunny hill slope to the left at the base of the mountain) and a skating rink, adjacent to the tubing hill.

Stewart bought 600 tubes to rent out that year. It cost 50 cents to rent a tube and use the hill. It also cost 50 cents if you brought your own tube.

"I remember a chain of up to 30 people swooshing down the hill together," Stewart said. "A man told

me once his kids called it ... what was it? A blast?"

But the tubing hill and skating rink took too much policing, Stewart said, and they were eventually closed.

In 1957, Stewart imported a \$40,000 Poma lift from France, added new runs at the resort and organized a formal ski patrol.

The Poma lift extended 2,600 feet up the mountainside (where Maverick Run is today), with a vertical rise of 600 feet, which seemed tremendous at the time.

By today's standards, the Poma lift was a crude affair. From the cable descended a spring-loaded shaft with a disc-shaped platter at its end that skiers put between their legs. The lift operator would hand the skier the shaft, wait for him to mount the platter, trip a lever and the skier would zing up the mountain.

The key to getting up the mountain successfully was keeping your skis evenly in the grooves left in the snow by previous Poma riders.

The bottom terminal of the Poma lift and a building housing its motor were wiped out by a snowslide on Jan. 30, 1963.

In 1965, the resort's first all-electric double chair lift was installed; it was 5,600 feet long, rose 1,400 feet vertically and could accommodate 1,200 skiers an hour. Just in case of a power failure, a gas auxiliary motor was kept on hand. That lift — Mandan — is still in operation at the resort today. A second double chair lift — Navajo — was installed at the base of the mountain in 1969.



PHOTOGRAPHY/ Photo courtesy of Stewart family

**Ray and S. Paul Stewart install a used chair lift at Timp Haven resort in this 1951 photo.**

So how did Timp Haven eventually become Sundance, owned by Robert Redford?

Prior to becoming an actor, Redford was an art student at Colorado University in Boulder, Colo. He traveled between his hometown of Santa Monica, Calif., and Boulder via Utah. The beauty of the state impressed

him. In 1963, after achieving success as an actor, Redford built a mountain cabin at Timp Haven. It was a refuge from the pressures of Hollywood.

Hilda Stewart, Paul's wife, remembers the first time she met Redford, he wanted to borrow their truck and 15 cents to make a phone call.

"I didn't want to lend it to him," said Hilda, who had no idea who he was. "He had a shock of red hair and a pair of overalls on. He was just another kid who came up and bothered me about things."

Redford was not quite just another kid. Five years later, when Stewart began considering selling the resort, Redford, concerned that his refuge was about to be taken over by less sensitive interests, formed a corporation with several businessmen and bought Timp Haven for \$1.8 million.

Redford changed the resort's name to Sundance (after his role in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid") and in the ensuing years has made a number of major changes at the resort, including the addition of two new ski lifts.



# Reader's forum

## Likes plan for new fresh water lake

To the editor:

Like Gov. Bangerter, I, too, get goosebumps when I think of the possibilities of diking the Great Salt Lake to form a fresh water lake east of Promontory Point and Antelope Island. What excites me even more is that this 654 square mile, fresh water lake can become a reality for a bargain basement price.

Rep. Stan Smedley has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that will create the Great Salt Lake Diking Authority. This Authority will be comparable to a water conservancy district, but will also have the ability to create a tax increment district similar to a redevelopment agency.

After appropriate public hearings, input from engineering consultants, government agencies, and other experts, the Authority will be able to propose the most feasible method to accomplish the lake diking. If the people of Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Box Elder counties approve, the work will begin, and the lake will be tamed.

The projections made by the Lake Wasatch Coalition, a group of citizens who want to see this project proceed, indicate that the entire cost of the diking project can be covered by the increase in taxes collected due to the rising value of lake side properties.

Land that now are useless, because of the fluctuating level, become prime real estate holdings on a fresh water lake with a stable shore line.

This project will benefit the entire Wasatch Front and we now have the vehicle to make it happen.

W. Kent Thatcher  
Bennion

## Olympics in Utah? Who needs it?

To the editor:

Who needs the Olympics? What probably is at the bottom of this question is the thinking that has me alarmed about the growth of our city. Why don't we limit its size? It's growing, growing, growing and the quality of life is going to go down, down, down!

The politicians want growth (more tax base), the businessmen want growth (more customers for their goods

homeless people throughout the country. Are we to be proud of this?

Sen. Jake Garn thinks that Ronald Reagan was the best president ever. Well, he should. He got rich hanging on to his coattails. One can say with certainty that when the bill for the recent enormous pay hike, signed by Ronald Reagan, comes up for a vote, Mr. Garn will be the very first to cast his vote in favor of it. He has never yet turned down a pay raise while in office, nor will he ever.

Since Sen. Garn, as well as our outgoing president, have opposed a hike in the minimum wage, wouldn't it be great if all members of Congress, their staff, etc., cut their own salaries to that of the minimum wage? That should balance the budget.

So long, Mr. President, and good riddance.

Blanche Petersen  
South Salt Lake

## Pay hike 'less than honorable'

To the editor:

We find it less than honorable that the federal government would even consider a salary increase at this time with the federal debt at trillions of dollars, brought on by the same ones that are now trying to raise their own wealth in a very sneaky way so that they can say that they did not vote for it.

If they worked in the private sector and had such a poor record at running a business and then went to the boss and asked for a raise, they would be shown the way to the front door fast.

It's a lame excuse to say that without a pay increase we cannot attract competent workers to the federal jobs and to the judiciary. Why do politicians spend so much money to get into these jobs if they don't allow the individual to live well when they get into those positions?

They deserve the same treatment that the king of England got when our forefathers dumped the tea into Boston harbor to show their displeasure with the laws at that time.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack I. Smith  
Salt Lake City

## 'Return Utah surplus to taxpayers'

To the editor:

The governor's proves that since they are back to business money to spend, it

The governor wants and an across

## the small society

by Brickman and Yates



# Federal shadows over Utah budget



LOIS M. COLLINS  
DESERET NEWS  
SOCIAL SERVICES WRITER

As lawmakers on the Social Services and Health Appropriations Committee sit down to pore over the separate budget proposals from the governor and from the legislative analyst, three shadows hover overhead.

Those shadows are major pieces of legislation passed in the last year by Congress.

The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987 (called OBRA), the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 and the Family Support Act of 1988 will all make significant demands on the state's resources by mandating changes in the responsibilities and services provided.

Because the laws are new, department officials and legislative analysts admit that their projections for the fiscal year 1990 budget (which are being discussed at the Legislature) are to some extent guesstimates.

Some officials are less than enchanted with the federal mandates. A legislative analyst said it creates a "paperwork nightmare."

During budget discussions, Rod Betit, director of the

care and residents rights, but the regulations haven't been written for those, so future impact is unknown.

All three bills are examples of one of Congress' oddities: The law is passed before any real regulations are written up. The regulations for the Family Support Act, for example, aren't expected out until spring, so departments don't know quite what they'll be facing when implementation begins.

The catastrophic coverage legislation is expected to change the financial picture significantly. A number of programs currently considered optional will become mandatory. While the federal government will provide significant funds in most cases, the state still has to come up with its predetermined share — while guessing how many people will be effected and how much money it will cost.

For example, the bill makes the state pay Medicare deductibles and co-insurance for the aged, blind and disabled who live at poverty level or below. Everyone agrees that will benefit a lot of people who need the help. They're just not sure where the money will come from — or what other needy person may have to do without.

The bill does a lot of other things as well, like ending a limitation on the number of days for payment of inpatient hospital service. It increases coverage for poor pregnant women and children, and protects to an extent someone who might have to impoverish himself to